

**Minutes of the
State Science Council Meeting
Held August 14, 2002
State Capitol Building, Room 223
2:00 – 4:30pm**

Members present:

Troy Takach - Chairman
Michael Keene
Gary Lund
Brent Miller
Susan Johnson
Michael Brehm
David Fischer (for Dennis Sauer)
Ron Pugmire (for Ray Gesteland)
Brent Webb (for Gary Hooper)

Non-voting members present:

Cecelia Foxley
John Njord
Rick Allis
Mark Bedel

Guests present:

Jack Hamilton
Stan Burns
Eric Vokt
Terrence Chatwin
David Slaughter
Bill Craig
Diane Nelson

Welcome and Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm and the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2002 were approved as written.

After a period of introductions, Dr. Keene advised the members and audience that the Nuclear Transportation presentation by Dr. Slaughter and Mr. Craig is intended for information purposes only, based on the premise that nuclear waste may again be transported through Utah as it has in the past. He pointed out that no decisions, political or otherwise will be made based upon the presentation.

Presentations:

Nuclear Transportation Presentation: Mr. Bill Craig and Dr. Michael Slaughter gave an extensive presentation on nuclear transportation, pointing out that Utah is at a critical crossroads for nuclear waste shipment between the east and west coasts, with Arizona being the alternative route. They spoke on the various types of materials, how they are shipped, what is involved in the shipment, safety track record to date, regulations that cover the industry, and risk assessment.

Following a period of questions and answers, Mr. Craig and Dr. Slaughter summed up their presentation by stating that the conclusion they have come up with, is that radioactive shipments are safe if a strategy is developed and proper planning and preparation is implemented.

Utah Experiment Station Presentation: Dr. Terrence Chatwin gave a presentation on the Utah Engineering Experiment Station, which is located on the campus of the University of Utah. He explained that the organization was created by the Legislature in 1909 as a technology bridge between the University and the public/private sectors. Dr. Chatwin continued by outlining the various projects and activities in which the

organization is involved, which includes the following: faculty support, industrial support, UMPIC & DOE, inventions to commercialization, Utah Wetlands & Riparian Center, secondary school outreach and the Center for Mine Land Redevelopment. He also explained that the future focus of the organization is to enhance in-state commercialization activities and create opportunities for students.

Committee Reports:

Establishment of Nominating committee: The chairman handed over the nominations that were in his possession to Susan Johnson. Ms. Johnson inquired as to whether or not industry recommendations should be accepted, to which Mr. Takach responded in the affirmative. Ms. Johnson then suggested that prior to the next board meeting, she will provide a list of nominees to be voted upon at that meeting; the recommendations will then go to the governor for his approval.

Executive Committee: Troy Takach reported that an executive committee meeting was held in June, out of which came an operating plan that was sent to all the members. Mr. Gary Lund stated that he had not received the e-mail. Sharon Cox was asked to look into the matter and ensure that Mr. Lund received a copy of the plan.

Mr. Takach explained that the committee developed a number of goals that they will try to meet this year. They have also outlined a number of meetings to be held, during which various presentations will be made. Phone conferences or e-mail chat sessions will then be scheduled in order to come up with either a statement or a series of questions to be answered based on the information obtained from these presentations. The information will then be posted on their website.

The committee has also come up with a document numbering system that will allow resolutions, white papers and by-law changes to be posted on the web in an organized fashion.

Another goal of the committee is to ensure that a representative display of the Governor's Medal Award recipients be established at the Capitol building.

Centers of Excellence: Dr. Michael Keene reported that the Legislature did not implement any additional budget cuts to the centers program. He then made reference to a recent press release that he had produced, which brought attention to some Utah small high tech firms and mentioned that our State more than doubled its performance from the last time around in the US Department of Energy SBIR competition. He pointed out that two of the three firms that were responsible for this outcome, have the centers program in their pedigree. Dr. Keene then went on to read excerpts from the press release which detailed the successes of these companies and explained that this will benefit the public, legislature and others involved in the funding decisions of the centers and support the idea that the universities, innovation and technology are going to be the driving forces for economic creation in the State and in the country in this century, and that the programs that we have in place to sustain these things deserve their support.

Additionally, Dr. Keene reported on a new program that has been put in place to leverage the monies that are now available, by partnering with business schools to employ MBA students who will work with the Centers under the direction of the commercialization consultants. This will greatly reduce costs since the students will work for one tenth of what is currently being paid to the consultants.

Bylaw Adjustments: The chairman explained that according to the statutes, a majority vote is needed before the bylaws can be adjusted, and as far as he has been able to tell from the records and Heather Greenwall's research, there has never been a bylaw adjustment. He stated that he is not 100% clear on the matter however, since the records do not go that far back. Mr. Takach then explained that the item at issue for adjustment is the frequency of meetings which is now being held every two months rather than four times per year. The adjustment will be drafted and distributed for review and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Governor's Medal Awards: Mr. Michael Brehm gave a brief overview of the Governor's Medal Awards and explained that the process was streamlined last year, the outcome of which was an enjoyable luncheon at which they honored some excellent candidates. He then explained that the first deadline for soliciting nominations for this year's event is coming up on November 1, 2002 and asked for a volunteer to be the point person and to oversee the planning of the event. He also asked that members begin to think about volunteering to sit on a review committee made up of council members. Mr. Brent Miller volunteered to take on the assignment of overseeing the event.

Parowan Gap: Dr. Michael Keene gave a brief overview of the origins of Parowan Gap explaining that it is an astronomical pre-Columbian site created by indigenous peoples. He stated that in response to the resolution to try and provoke interest in the site with entities such as the Dept. of Transportation and the State Archeologist, he had a meeting with the State Archeologist, and the outcome of their discussions was that if there were to be a development at Parowan Gap, we would not have the official endorsement of the scientific archeological community behind it. Dr. Keene explained however, that they would not be adverse to supporting such a development with the understanding that it would be a great opportunity for the public to view and enjoy artifacts of the past and essentially use their own imagination to come to their own conclusions.

Dr. Keene went on to explain that the basis for the lack of support is grounded upon unfortunate facts associated with the former study which the archeological community rejected for lack of evidence to support the findings therein.

Alternate Board Members: The chairman reminded council members to provide the names of their Alternates if they had not done so already.

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28p.m.